

Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /079 W
----- 011463

R 291516Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2620
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FR PINT PBOR
SUBJECT: UNEASY CALM RETURNS TO CORSICA

REF: PARIS 22162

1. UNEASY CALM PREVAILED IN BASTIA AUGUST 28-29 AS GOF
MOVED IN MORE HEAVILY ARMED PARAMILITARY REINFORCEMENTS
FOR SHELL SHOCKED RIOT CONTROL CRS GENDARMES WHO HAVE NOW
SUFFERED THREE FATALITIES. YOUNG CORSICAN HAS BEEN
ARRESTED IN BASTIA AND CHARGED WITH MURDER OF THIRD
GENDARME AUGUST 27.

2. IN ATTEMPT TO OPEN NEW DIALOGUE WITH CORSICAN POPU-
LATION, GOF FIRED PREFECT AND SUB-PREFECT AND APPOINTED
JEAN RIOLACCI, PREFECT OF SEINE-ST. DENIS DEPARTMENT, TO
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TAKE CHARGE ON THE ISLAND. HE HAS ALREADY ARRIVED

WITH MANDATE TO CONSULT VARIOUS GROUPS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. RIOLACCI IS OF CORSICAN ORIGIN, HAS HELD IMPORTANT JOBS IN INTERIOR MINISTRY, AND IS HIGHLY REGARDED. OUTGOING PREFECT GABRIEL GILLY IS FAULTED FOR HAVING FAILED TO ANTICIPATE PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY WHEN SPEECHES AT ARC CONGRESS IN MID-AUGUST EXPOSED ENTIRE SCENARIO FOR ALL TO HEAR. ON-THE-SPOT OBSERVERS REPORT THAT BASTIA HAS RETURNED TO A NORMAL SITUATION, WITH LAW AND ORDER FORCES KEEPING A LOW PROFILE AND CITIZENS GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

3. COMMENT: GOF HAS BEEN TALKING FOR SOME TIME ABOUT DECENTRALIZATION, AN IDEA THAT GOES AGAINST THE GRAIN OF THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF FRENCH BUREAUCRATIC HISTORY. CORSICAN CRISIS SHOULD GIVE PROPONENTS OF DECENTRALIZATION AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH THROUGH SOME NEW MEASURES, AT LEAST ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS. IN ADDITION, GOF SHOULD NOW EXPEDITE SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORMS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED SPECIFICALLY FOR CORSICA BUT WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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